

FO 15

03/24/87 140015 :: PRINTER: VK

$$\begin{matrix} E \\ (4)(4) \\ (4)(5) \end{matrix}$$

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | COPY-01 | ADS-00 | INR-10 | SS-00 | CIAE-00 | DODE-00 |
| | H-01 | NEA-06 | NSCE-00 | NSAE-00 | HA-09 | L-03 | PM-10 |
| | PA-01 | OMB-01 | PIB-01 | ACDA-12 | SP-02 | SNP-01 | PRS-01 |
| | /059 W | | | | | | |

-----155230 170440Z /12

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC:MR

REVIEWED BY EC DATE 7/29

DATE: 10/10/68
TIME: 10:10
BY: [illegible]
TO: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]
[illegible] IN PAR
[illegible] (1) (X) (a) (X) (3)

2. MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN GERASIMOV, GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENT CHIEF CHERVOV, AND MFA MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT SECTOR CHIEF MILYUSHIN OCTOBER 15 HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS FROM AFGHANISTAN. CHERVOV'S OPENING STATEMENT AND THE ANSWERS TO THE JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS ADDED NOTHING NEW TO THE SOVIET POSITION. OCTOBER 14 PRAVDA PUBLISHED A CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CHEVROLET STATEMENT

INTER ALIA ATTRIBUTED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SIX REGIMENTS (OR 8000 MEN) TO THE STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN DRA MILITARY CAPABILITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASSERTED THAT TWO MUJAHIDEEN GROUPS

PAGE 1

[illegible]

87 - D O S 00192 L M

CONFIDENTIAL

WERE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH THE DRA, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH GROUPS. CHERVOV NOTED THAT THE DRA STILL FACED DIFFICULTIES, BUT INSISTED THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH ITS PROBLEMS INDEPENDENTLY, WERE THERE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HE SAID THAT SECRETARY WEINBERGER LIED WHEN HE CLAIMED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL HAD NO MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE.

4. CHERVOV REITERATED THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE ON COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN, I.E. CESSATION OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND GUARANTEES AGAINST ITS RENEWAL MUST PRECEDE WITHDRAWAL.

QUESTIONS

5. IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS, CHERVOV AND MILYUSHIN:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17822 01 OF 02 151722Z

-- SAID SOVIET FORCES WERE NOT PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS, BUT WERE GUARDING COMMUNICATIONS LINES, IMPORTANT FACILITIES AND INHABITED AREAS; THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SOVIET SOLDIERS WHO DIE DO SO CARRYING OUT THESE DUTIES;

-- DECLINED TO SAY HOW MANY SOLDIERS WOULD BE LEFT AFTER THIS WITHDRAWAL;

-- DISMISSED WESTERN ASSERTIONS THAT THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENTS SERVED NO MILITARY PURPOSE;

-- ADMITTED THAT THE "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY" FORCES WERE STILL STRONG, BUT ASSERTED THAT THE DRA MILITARY WAS MORE THAN A MATCH AND COULD HANDLE THESE FORCES, WERE THERE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE;

-- DENIED THAT THE SOVIET OR DRA FORCES WERE USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS OR "BOOBY-TRAPS," BUT CLAIMED THE MUJAHIDEEN WERE USING SUCH WEAPONS OF "FOREIGN MANUFACTURE";

-- CLAIMED THAT THE AFGHAN CLERGY SUPPORTED THE REGIME AND THAT THE REGIME WAS ENCOURAGING ISLAM IN AFGHANISTAN;

-- CHARGED THAT ISRAEL WAS SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO THE MUJAHIDEEN;

-- DENIED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE LINKING PROGRESS ON REGIONAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN TO PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES.

CONFIDENTIAL

36 MOSCOW 17822

CONFIDENTIAL

03/24/87 140015 PRINTER: VK

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17822 02 OF 02 151722Z

ACTION EUR-00

INFO LCG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-01 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10

PA-01 OMB-01 BIS-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 SNF-01 PRS-01

/059 W

-----156231 170440Z /12

R 151537Z OCT 86

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1757

INFO USIA WASHDC 6384

MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 17822

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX REGIMENTS

ALTHOUGH CHERVOV NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE

EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ARMS CONTROL AND

DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS IN THEIR DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S.

U.S. ROLE

6. CHERVOV CHARGED THAT THE U.S. PROVIDED 320 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE MUJAHIDEEN FROM 1980 TO 1983, 150 MILLION IN 1984, 280 MILLION IN 1985, AND ALLOCATED AN ADDITIONAL 200 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1985. IN ADDITION, HE CLAIMED THAT U.S. MILITARY ADVISORS WERE TRAINING THE MUJAHIDEEN IN PAKISTAN AND THAT THEY WERE PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17822 02 OF 02 151722Z

WE HAVE HEARD THIS CHARGE. END COMMENT.)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE

7. PRAVDA OCTOBER 14 PUBLISHED A CENTRAL COMMITTEE LETTER TO THE "SOLDIERS-INTERNATIONALISTS." THE LETTER PORTRAYS THE ROLE OF THESE SOLDIERS IN

AFGHANISTAN AS INNOCENT AND JUSTIFIED, CLAIMING THAT THEY "RESISTED HOSTILE FORCES," AND SAVED AFGHAN CHILDREN, OLD PEOPLE, AND WOMEN FROM HIRED KILLERS. THE LETTER ALSO ASSERTS THAT WHAT THEY EXPERIENCED IN AFGHANISTAN DEMONSTRATES THAT THE "CLASS ENEMY" HATES EVERYTHING THE SOVIET UNION CHERISHES, E.G. CULTURE, FREEDOM, EQUALITY, ETC.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 3

86 MOSCOW 17822.

03/24/52 140015

PRINTER: VK

CONFIDENTIAL

IT ALSO DRAWS A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE IN WORLD WAR II AND AFGHANISTAN, AND CLAIMS THAT SINCE THE REVOLUTION, THE SOVIET MILITARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN "INTERNATIONALIST" IN ORIENTATION.

COMMENT

8. THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS THREE POINTS ON WESTERN AUDIENCES:

- (A) THAT THE WITHDRAWAL IS MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT;
- (B) THAT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN IS STABILIZING, WITH THE REGIME CAPABLE OF HANDLING ITS INTERNAL OPPONENTS; AND
- (C) THAT THE MUJAHIDEEN DO NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL LEGITIMACY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03

MOSCOW 17822 02 OF 02 151722Z

9. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HARTMAN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE

4

03:15:58 7030